

## Claims

1. A method in a communication system for relocating a protocol termination point, comprising:

- 5 defining a protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of a first termination point of a first protocol by the first protocol;  
transferring the protocol initialization unit from the first termination point to a second termination point by a  
10 second protocol; and  
initializing the second termination point based on the protocol initialization unit.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains state information of the first protocol termination point.

*Sub a5)* 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first termination point is located at a first network element of the communication system and the second termination point is located at a second network element of the communication system.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the second network element, upon receiving the protocol information unit, generates and transmits a response to the first network element by means of the second protocol.

*Sub a6)* 5. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the protocol initialization unit is encapsulated in a message transmitted between the first termination point and the second termination point by the second protocol.

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*sab a6*  
cont

6. A method according to any of the preceding claims,  
wherein the protocol initialization unit is transparent for  
the second protocol.

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7. A method according to any of the preceding claims,  
wherein the protocol initialization unit is transmitted via a  
third network element between the termination points.

10 8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the transmission  
is based on a radio access network application part (RANAP)  
protocol.

*sab a7*

9. A method according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the  
15 protocol initialization unit is transmitted by a direct  
connection between the termination points.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the transmission  
is based on a radio network subsystem application part (RNSAP)  
20 protocol.

*sab a8*

11. A method according to any of the preceding claims,  
wherein the predefined information of the first protocol  
comprise one or several parameters of a radio resource control  
25 protocol (RRC), medium access control protocol (MAC), radio  
link control protocol (RLC), and/or packet data convergence  
protocol (PDCP).

12. A method according to any of the preceding claims,  
30 wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information  
of at least one further protocol.

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13. A method according to any of the preceding claims,  
comprising steps of:

defining at least one further protocol initialization  
unit containing predefined information of a further protocol  
5 by the further protocol; and

transferring the further protocol initialization unit  
from the first termination point to the second termination  
point.

*sub a8>*

10 14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the further  
*cont* protocol initialization unit is transferred between the  
termination points by a protocol that is different to the  
second protocol.

15 15. A method according to any of the preceding claims,  
wherein at least one of the termination points is located at  
one of the following: a base station controller, a radio  
network controller, a base station, a gateway.

20 16. A method according to any of the preceding claims,  
wherein the step of initializing the second termination point  
comprises setting the parameters of the second termination  
point into a state that is similar to the parameters of the  
first termination point before or at the time the relocation  
25 procedure was initiated.

17. A communication system, comprising:  
a first protocol termination point;  
a second protocol termination point;  
30 control means for relocating a first protocol from the  
first protocol termination point to the second protocol  
termination point, said control means being arranged to form a

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protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of the first protocol at the first protocol termination point;

communication path based on a second protocol between the first and the second termination points for transferring the

5 protocol initialization unit; and

control means for initializing the second protocol termination point based on the protocol initialization unit.

18. A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the  
10 protocol initialization unit contains state information of the first protocol termination point.

*sub a 9)*  
19. A communication system according to claim 17 or 18,  
wherein the control means for relocating are arranged to  
15 encapsulate the protocol initialization unit into a message to be transmitted from the first termination point to the second termination point.

20. A communication system according to any of claims 17 to  
20, wherein the first termination point is located at a first network element of the communication system and the control means for relocating are arranged in connection with the first network element.

25 21. A communication system according to any of claims 17 to 20, wherein the second termination point is located at a second network element of the communication system and the control means for initializing are arranged in connection with the second network element.

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*22.* A communication system according to any of the claims 17 to 21, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.

*sub a9  
cont* 5 23. A network element for use in a communication network, comprising:

a protocol termination point;

control means for relocating a first protocol from the protocol termination point to another protocol termination point, said control means being arranged to form a protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of the first protocol at the protocol termination point; and interface to said other protocol termination point based on a second protocol for transferring the protocol initialization unit from the first termination point by means of the second protocol.

24. A network element according to claim 23, wherein the network element comprises a controller of a cellular communication network.

*sub a10* 20 25. A network element according to claim 23 or 24, wherein the control means for relocating are arranged to encapsulate the protocol initialization unit into a message to be transmitted from the first termination point by means of the second protocol.

26. A network element according to any of claims 23 to 25, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.

27. A network element for use in a communication network,  
comprising:

a protocol termination point of a first protocol;

interface to another protocol termination point for

5 receiving a protocol initialization unit containing predefined  
information of the first protocol at said other termination  
point, wherein the interface is based on a second protocol;  
and

control means for initializing the protocol termination

10 point based on the received protocol initialization unit.

28. A network element according to claim 27, wherein the  
network element comprises a controller of a cellular  
communication network.